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Sexuality club approved

University officers recognize Gay Straight **Partnership**

By Anna Walters News Editor

The UP administration officially recognized the university's firstever sexuality club, the Gay Straight Partnership, at a meeting last Monday, signaling the end of the administration's 14-year-long span of denying sexuality clubs on campus.

"I'm just excited it's a real club," said senior Bridget Domeier, a founding member. "We were trying to be hush hush, saying 'don't get too excited, don't get too excited,' but it was accepted."

The GSP's mission, according to the club's constitution, is "to build a community that is open and welcoming to all students" and "to help all students grow in friendship,

knowledge, faith and service."

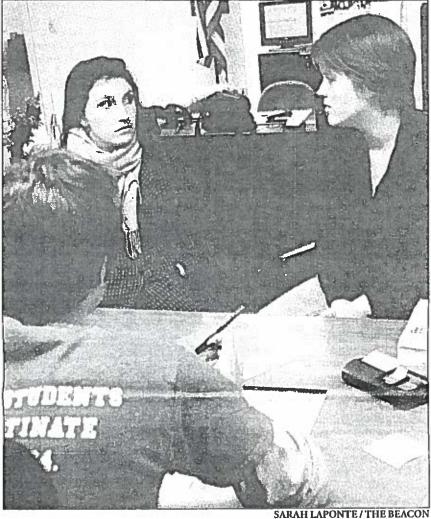
Apart from community building, the GSP also will strive to educate students on issues surrounding sexuality without advancing any kind of agenda, according to the club's mission, and to serve the extended community through volunteering and education.

After the **GSP** application was approved by the ASUP Club Recognition Advisory Committee, it was passed on to various administrators until it landed on the desk of John Goldrick, vice president for enrollment management and student life.

Most of the time, applications for club recognition, after ASUP makes a recommendation, are approved or denied by Jeromy Koffler, director of Student Activities. But proposed clubs that potentially conflict with the University's mission or Catholic character are reviewed by the officers - a group of administrators consisting of the president, the vice presidents and the provost — before approval may be granted.

Koffler said that the officers involvement in a club's acceptance or rejection is rare.

"Have we seen a case (where the



ASUP President David Gregg meets with Valerie Silliman and Rosie Cullen (left) of the GSP to discuss ASUP funding of the recently-approved club.

officers decide) in recent history? No. But we also haven't had a GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) group proposed in recent

history," Koffler said.
Goldrick, along with the other officers of the University and the Rev. John Donato, C.S.C., the associate vice president for student life, reviewed the GSP application at their meeting on Dec. 10. Goldrick then sent a memo to Koffler, to be shared with the GSP's founding members, outlining changes to be made to the GSP constitution before the officers would approve the club, including choosing new advisers, proposing amendments to the club constitution, and removing a section on networking with other schools.

"We are all very supportive of your efforts, and, as you have requested, provide the following feedback about the proposal and our need to require a few changes and amendments to it prior to our final consideration of the group's request for official recognition," Goldrick wrote in the memo. Goldrick declined to comment on the club for The Beacon.

The GSP made the proposed changes to its constitution and its application was reviewed and unanimously approved by the officers at their meeting on Monday.

See Partnership, page 4

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PARTNERSHIP: receives some ASUP funds

Continued from page 1

a process and it went this way and got recognized," said senior Valerie Silliman, "I'm delighted and honored that this group of students got to be involved in tried in a variety of ways and I really have been students in the past that have for this time." recognize that their work has prepped us president and co-founder. "There

denied proposed sexuality clubs. Two groups, Up'N'Out and Friends United to Educate Lives (FUEL), applied for club recognition in the 1990s but were both rejected by the administration because Catholic views on homosexuality. the clubs conflicted with the University's In the past, the administration has

Center's substance abuse prevention coordinator, be replaced by "two people who are specially charged with the articulation of our mission," Goldrick Ministry's assistant director of faith formation, were chosen by the officers as wrote. Donato and Stacey Noem, Campus Rogers and Kristina Houck, the Health advisers, social work professor Anissa recommended was that the club's existing the GSP's new advisers. officers

of the importance that (they) attach to (a club's) 'fit' with the university's mission." decision to recommend an administrator for the role of a GSP adviser is "an indication According to the memo, the officers

him to be the club's new adviser not only Donato said that the officers chose

> administration and the students but also because he can act as a liaison between the the mission of the university." for his ability to "vocalize and facilitate

support one of our primary purposes, we might look into that." life," she said. "Now, if there was a time and situation when networking would

The administrators suggested three

narrow its focus to undergraduate students' more changes, including that the club

activities, so they cannot act as officers or Heather Lee, assistant director of student student government fees according to all clubs. Graduate students do not pay needs specifically, as is the policy for

voting members of any club.

The officers also suggested that the

community here, starting in our dorms and

in our classrooms and just in our everyday

sacred area of human sexuality," Donato student groups are involved in, but also and the associate vice president for student group stays focused for what we hope all this particular one which deals with the life is a good way to make sure that this "The fact that I am a Holy Cross pries

grant it. its future advisers if the officers decide to the club's advisers. Silliman said the GSP written, the officers retain the right to name that the club may have more control over doesn't intend to alter the constitution, but As the GSP constitution is currently

a priest and a campus ministry official won't cause concern among students. Silliman hopes that the new advisers,

but the GSP is a student-led group. They are manner that will make everyone feel comfortable,"Sillimansaid."Itissomething students and to respond in a very open in Stacey and Fr. John's ability to welcome that I know will concern some students, "I personally have a lot of confidence

at the time it requested funds, ASUP only

Because the GSP was not an official club

As of press time, the GSP has been allotted \$174 of its requested \$2,335 budget.

according to the memo.

of the Catholic Church's teaching about

human sexuality and sexual orientation,

to ensure that "the group will provide balanced programming and education and will offer a clear, faithful presentation group strengthen the wording of its mission

club always works here." isn't a classroom, and they're there our advisers, this switch is a positive to make sure the adviser agree club marginalized. rather than involved ... feeling 99

Other

-Valerie Silliman, GSP club

"The school has been really affirming,"
"It seems like the sort of thing that has

HARLEM GOSPEL CHOIR

student need.

desire to address a

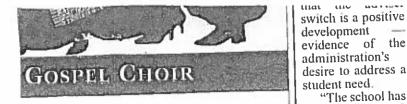
students ... stay their "I hope gay allowed it a small portion in case the club was denied by for carry-over funds.

the newly-recognized change on campus. Some students think a positive

time Gregg said, adding that the GSP will be eligible administration. budget cycle ended," ASUP president David groups weren't able to recognize it before the "They submitted for standard proposal recognition, different

"It seems like the sort of thing that has

Deligible evidence of the administration's development that the members



irch 18, 2008, 8:00 p.m. Portland, Chiles Center tickets for \$10 at the Chiles Center d community members can purchase ox office or through Ticketmaster. rson For Five or More

www.up.edu/activities lemgospelchoir.com ır Lee X8459 or leeh@up.edu-Program Board and funded by ASUP



marginalized." switch is a positive evidence of the

-Valerie Silliman, GSP

Some students think the newly-recognized club is a positive change on campus.

the GSP will be engine

for carry-over funds.

"It seems like the sort of thing that has been needed for a very long time and I'm excited that it went through," Julie Franks, a senior English major, said. Franks plans on joining the club,

"I think it opens up new doors that were once closed on this campus due to a lack of diversity," sophomore Brandon

Silliman hopes that throughout the years the GSP will be a vibrant, welcoming community.

"My big dream is that it will last for 25 years until we don't even need gay straight alliances because our community would already be welcoming," Silliman said. "I hope it will encourage gay students to come to our university. I hope that gay students who are here will stay involved on campus rather than being marginalized and feeling alone. I hope that lots of straight people will be involved, and I hope people find answers and find questions.

"The school has been really affirming," junior Jayme Schroeder, GSP vice president, said. "Some people get caught up in the fact that they choose our advisers, but it's really a minor point. It's not like they're trying to control us or anything."

The officers also recommended

that the GSP stay localized to the UP community and not network with other schools and similar clubs in the area. Club members expressed agreement with this recommendation mainly because the GSP's initial purpose is to build a community of students at UP.

"They just want to keep it on the campus for a little while so we have a community on campus versus having a community fueled by outsides sources," Schroeder

Silliman said that the networking part of the constitution felt a little "tacked-on" considering the club's primary mission.

"Everything else in our purpose and in our mission is involved with building the





Jan. 14, 9:22 a.m. - Public Safety responded to a medical call to a house in . A student burned themselves with water. The student was treated on scene.